



Dr. Christine Anderson

AFRL executive wins prestigious Von Braun award

by John Brownlee, Space Vehicles Directorate

KIRTLAND AFB, NM – Director of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Space Vehicles Directorate Christine Anderson was awarded the 1999 Von Braun Award, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics's top honor for excellence in space program management.

The 32,000-member institute recognized Anderson for establishing and leading the Space Technology Alliance, a recently formed consortium of eight federal agencies working in cooperation with industry and expressly chartered to maximize collaborative opportunities for more efficient development of advanced space technologies.

"We all have champagne tastes on a beer budget," Anderson said. "We also have lots of technology requirements to fulfill. By pooling investments, we can accomplish a lot more."

"As the 20th Century draws to a close, space industry leaders in government and the commercial sector understand the importance of working more closely together to reduce duplication of effort and efficiently hammer out well-planned programs that develop affordable, innovative space technologies for the warfighter," Anderson said.

"I am pleased that the Alliance has turned out so well," Anderson said. "A lot of people have worked hard in an effort that I know exemplifies the true meaning of partnership."

Current government Alliance members include senior technology directors from the Air Force, Army, Navy, NASA, the National Reconnaissance Office, the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Department of Energy.

Former Air Force Chief Scientist Dr. Daniel Hastings presented the award to Anderson at the AIAA Space Technology Conference and Exposition held in September 1999, in Albuquerque, N.M. She was also the general chair of the well-attended conference.

Anderson, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is responsible for planning and implementing the research, development, and transition of space and ballistic missile technologies for the Air Force. Her 1000-person AFRL directorate focuses on leading-edge space concepts, technologies, and demonstrations supporting space-based surveillance and space capability protection.

The Von Braun Award memorializes rocket pioneer Dr. Werner von Braun by nationally recognizing one person each year since 1988 for outstanding management of an important space-related program. Noted Apollo Space Program administrator General Samuel Phillips was the first recipient. @